



**POSITION OF THE ASPIRA ASSOCIATION ON THE
REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT
TRIO PROGRAMS**

PRINCIPLE

The TRIO programs have worked well for our community in providing vital services to our youth. They have proven over the past twenty years, to be a valuable way of expanding opportunities for Hispanic and other minority students.

Therefore, there should be no major changes in the structure or administration of the TRIO programs. There are some minor recommendations for changes in the language of the legislation to better reflect practice or to allow for additional activities.

ASPIRA supports the specific recommendations set forth by the National Council of Educational Opportunity Centers (NCEO). This document addresses our position regarding some major issues that have been raised and that are included in the NCEO position recommendations. They are included here to reinforce our position, which coincides with NCEO's.

This document also includes our recommendations regarding other issues that are supported by ASPIRA that are not among NCEO's recommendations.

The position of the ASPIRA Association is:

ISSUE: BLOCK GRANTS

ASPIRA opposes any changes in the current way of funding the TRIO. ASPIRA opposes funding through block grants. (See NCEO)

ISSUE: FUNDING AUTHORIZATION

ASPIRA supports an increase in the current authorization level to \$850 million. (See NCEO)

ISSUE: PRIOR EXPERIENCE

ASPIRA opposes any changes in the "prior experience" provisions. The current system provides a natural advantage to existing programs, which promotes quality of services and stability. (See NCEO)

ISSUE: SERVICES TO PARENTS AS AN ALLOWABLE ACTIVITY UNDER TALENT SEARCH, UPWARD BOUND AND SPECIAL SERVICES TO DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS.

ASPIRA supports the inclusion of services to parents (counseling, training, information dissemination) as an "Allowable Activity" under Talent Search and Upward Bound and supports the inclusion of information dissemination and counseling of parents under Special Services.

This would be a new provision. The inclusion of services to parents, as an allowable activity will stimulate programs to involve Hispanic parents, which is key to the success of Hispanic students. This provision is especially appropriate in Talent Search, as this program moves to increase the numbers of middle school student served. Dissemination of information to parents under Upward Bound and Special Services would enhance the service mix under these programs and hence, their effectiveness. (NCEOA does not oppose the inclusion of this provision)

ISSUE: RECOGNITION OF VETERANS UPWARD BOUND PROGRAMS

ASPIRA supports the recognition of Veterans Upward Bound Programs (See NCEOA)

ISSUE: DISAGGREGATION OF EVALUATION DATA

ASPIRA supports a provision to ensure that evaluation data collected be disaggregated by ethnic group to provide information on sub-groups within the category "Hispanic."

ASPIRA makes the following recommendations for the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- renew emphasis on the goals outlined in the Executive Order on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans with Federal funding authorization;
- ensure funding for remedial assistance to needy college students, including Limited English Proficient students;
- include language to encourage individuals to work at community-based organizations that promote postsecondary education through loan forgiveness programs under Title IV;
- ensure gender and geographic balance among grant reviewers;
- require disaggregate data collection by racial and ethnic populations, and gender across grant programs;
- oppose "Block Granting" of TRIO programs;
- adjust the minimum grant levels according to inflation for TRIO programs; and
- keep the "Prior Experience" clause for grant consideration under TRIO.
- ensure that peer review panels are geographically and racially balanced, and that representatives from community-based education organizations are included on the peer review panel.
- authorize funds provided for an articulation partnerships to be used for developing agreements.
- add language to include Hispanic-Serving Institutions under academic libraries and information services.
- designate Hispanic-Serving Institutions as eligible institutions (Academic

Libraries and Information Services).

- include gender and geographic balance for Title III — institutional aid .
- authorize that grants to institutions may be used for establishing community outreach programs with community-based education organizations that promote postsecondary education and parent involvement.
- provide language to enable graduate education opportunities to Hispanic Americans under professional or graduate institutions.
- ensure gender and geographic balance among grant readers under Title III, Part D, Application Review Process.
- Protect student assistance and basic educational opportunity grants from repeal.
- support authorizing language Title IV, Federal TRIO Programs — to appropriate \$850,000 for fiscal year 1998 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the four succeeding fiscal years.
- continue to support coordination with other programs for disadvantaged students — outreach.
- maintain current emphasis of Talent Search; encourage participation of "persons who have not completed programs of education at the secondary or postsecondary level, but who have the ability to complete such programs, to reenter such programs.
- support Upward Bound — include workshops and counseling services for parents of students served.

- support adding a new number under Permissible Services (10) "Work-study positions where youth participating in the project are exposed to careers requiring a postsecondary degree" and that paragraph (10) be renumbered (11). Further, that paragraph (c) be amended to read "MAXIMUM STIPENDS - Youths participating in a project proposed to be carried out under any application may be paid stipends not in excess of \$60 per month during June, July, and August, except that youth participating in a work-study position under paragraph (b) (10) may be paid stipends of \$300 per month during June, July and August. Youths participating in a project proposed to be carried out under any application may be paid stipends not in excess of \$40 per month during the remaining period of the year."
- support full financial aid under Student Support Services.
- support addition of a new paragraph (d) Award Considerations -- in addition to such other selection criteria as may be prescribed by regulations, the Secretary shall consider the institutions efforts to provide sufficient financial assistance to meet each student's full financial need together with the institution's efforts to maintain loan burden at manageable levels.
- under Program Authority support the addition of a number (11) **workshops and counseling services for parents of students served.**
- support the inclusion of summer internships at community-based education organizations as permissible services under postbaccalaureate achievement program authority.
- support the inclusion of parents in public information campaigns under permissible services for educational opportunity centers.
- include disaggregate data by ethnic, racial, and gender group participation under evaluation for project improvement.
- support adding schools and community-based-organizations (CBOs) under Title IV -- program authority for model program community partnership and counseling grants.

- support including model programs that include "parent involvement and community service" under priorities in selection for model programs which are directed at areas which have a high proportion of minority, limited English proficiency, economically disadvantaged, disabled, nontraditional, or at-risk students and those model programs which serve these students from rural or urban environments.

- **support extending eligibility for loan forgiveness programs to individuals that work in community-based education organizations** promoting postsecondary education among underrepresented populations. (Perkins Loan (Sec.428J (b)(1)(A), Federal PLUS Loans (Sec.428(B), Federal Consolidation Loans (Sec. 428C), Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarships - Guaranteed Student Loans, Stafford Loans). Currently loan forgiveness exists for teachers, individuals performing national community service and nurses.

- fund transfer centers in 10 states and Puerto Rico to assist Hispanic students in transferring from two-year colleges to four-year colleges and universities. In addition, funding should be authorized for graduate program transfer centers at selected HSIs to assist undergraduate students to move from four-year universities to a Masters and Doctoral programs and professional career schools.